

Message from the Board of Directors

April 26, 2012

Dear Breastfeeding USA Volunteers,

In an earlier email to our general members list, the Board of Directors addressed concerns raised about Breastfeeding USA management and internal volunteer issues. We strongly affirm that Breastfeeding USA was founded and continues to operate on the principle that our volunteers are our most important resource. We support the decision to incorporate as a voting membership organization and we welcome and encourage input from our Breastfeeding Counselors (BCs) and national volunteers on all aspects of our governance and operations. We value transparency and will continue to share information with our BCs, volunteers, and general members via our website, newsletters, and Yahoo Group chat lists.

We encourage all of our volunteers to use this volunteer list to post any questions, concerns or issues they may have regarding the organization and the Board of Directors will do its best to respond in a transparent and respectful manner. The purpose of this list is to be able to provide one place for all our volunteers to receive important organization information, and where each of you may address the board or the entire voting membership.

At the same time, the Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the protection as well as the operations of the organization. We are accountable to all our stakeholders which include the voting members of the organization as well as the general public, in order to keep the organization focused on delivering the Breastfeeding USA mission. To accomplish this, the organization established standards to help us ALL work together towards this important goal. The credibility of the organization relies upon all of us as volunteers to uphold the organization's policies.

All Breastfeeding Counselors are expected to abide by the following Breastfeeding USA Counselor's Accreditation Statement:

As an accredited Breastfeeding Counselor, I will provide evidence-based breastfeeding information and support, promote breastfeeding as the biological and cultural norm, and use the Breastfeeding USA Code of Ethics, Policies, and Bylaws to guide my actions.

All voting members must abide by our organizational guidelines for us to work together successfully. Our procedures provide clear communications about the expectations for volunteers to work together, and we have a support network in place to help us all meet the guidelines and support one another in our work.

The Board of Directors deeply regrets losing any volunteers who are working towards our mission, and we thank those who have resigned for the contributions that they have made to the organization. We remain committed to the principles on which the organization was founded and continue to work to further the Breastfeeding USA mission. All of us have put our hearts and souls into building this organization and we want to continue to work together in an ethical and responsible manner to focus on that important goal.

Most sincerely,

Patty Jacobs
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Anne, Nancy, Beth, Norma, Carol, and Sharon